

I. SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

In response to a request by the Wayland Board of Health, the Community Assessment Unit (CAU) of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (MDPH/BEHA) conducted an investigation of cancer incidence in the town of Wayland and the potential for possible exposures to chemicals originating from the former Dow Chemical site located at 412 Commonwealth Road.

In response to these concerns, the MDPH conducted a descriptive epidemiological study of cancer incidence for the town of Wayland as a whole and for each of its two census tracts. The MDPH also reviewed available environmental information and sampling data for the former Dow site to determine if local residents may have been exposed to chemicals originating from the site.

In June 1997, the MDPH, under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), completed a Health Consultation entitled, *Assessment of Cancer Incidence in Wayland, Massachusetts, 1982-1992* (MDPH 1997a). This Consultation was released for public comment in June and the public comment period ended in December 1997.

This investigation concluded the following results:

- all cancer types investigated occurred approximately equal to or slightly greater than the expected rates;
- cancer incidence in the area of the Dow Chemical site generally occurred less often than expected;
- no unusual geographic pattern of cancer cases was observed for any of the cancer types evaluated; and
- based on the health outcome data reviewed and evaluation of exposure pathways, it seemed unlikely that an environmental factor (specifically, contamination associated with the Dow site) was responsible for the development of cancer in Wayland.

During the public comment period the MDPH received a number of comments and requests from the community for a continued follow-up investigation. In response to requests received during the public comment period, the MDPH analyzed and evaluated three additional years of cancer incidence data. As a result, this final Health Consultation includes cancer incidence data for the years 1982-1992, 1987-1994 and 1995. The MDPH also conducted further analyses regarding risk factor information for relevant cancer types described in this report, and reviewed the most recent environmental information and sampling data for the former Dow Chemical site.